

Message Text

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ACTION CU-03

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FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3355

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 7790

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR PFOR OECX (PRADO VALLEJO, JULIO)

SUBJECT: OEXC: FY-75 INTERNATIONAL VISITOR PROGRAM: PARTIAL GRANT
REQUEST

REF: A. QUITO 5608

B. QUITO 5763

1. DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL FROM REFTELS THAT EMBASSY PROPOSED PARTIAL GRANT FOR COLUMNIST AND FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER PRADO TO COVER EXPENSES DURING PLANNED VISITS TO WASHINGTON AND NEW YORK EN ROUTE BACK TO QUITO FROM TOUR OF SOVIET UNION, GERMANY AND FRANCE. AS IT TURNED OUT, PRADO WAS UNABLE TO STOP IN WASHINGTON AND THEREFORE ONLY HAD OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT NEW YORK.

2. IN THE MEANWHILE, PRADO INTENDS TO VISIT WASHINGTON AREA NOVEMBER 24 TO ABOUT 10:00 A.M. MORNING OF NOVEMBER 28 AS GUEST OF AIRLIE FOUNDATION FOR SEMINAR ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT. PRADO TOLD EMBOFF THAT THEREAFTER HE PLANNED TO STAY IN WASHINGTON PROPER THROUGH DECEMBER 2. (THERE IS A BRANIFF FLIGHT TO QUITO FROM D.C. ON THE NIGHT OF DECEMBER 2.)

3. EMBASSY BELIEVES THIS WOULD BE A USEFUL OPPORTUNITY TO RENEW OFFER OF PARTIAL GRANT TO PRADO FOR PURPOSE OF WASHINGTON CONSULTATION WITH KEY DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS AND CONTACT WITH ACADEMIC CIRCLES. AS REPORTED EARLIER,
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PRADO, AN INFLUENTIAL POLITICAL COMMENTATOR HERE, WOULD

BE WILLING TO DO A COLUMN ON THE NARCOTICS PROBLEM. BEYOND THAT, PRADO IS INTERESTED IN A BROAD RANGE OF POLITICAL ISSUES, INCLUDING RECENT OAS CONFERENCE. HIS COLUMNS HAVE IN FACT BEEN CRITICAL OF ATTEMPTS TO PLACE BLAME FOR FAILURE OF OAS TO LIFT CUBA SANCTIONS ON U.S. HE HAS ALSO PRIVATELY VOICED DISPLEASURE AT PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ LARA'S ADDRESS TO NOVEMBER 8 INAUGURAL OF QUITO MFIM, CHARACTERIZING IT AS DIVISIVE, EXCESSIVELY CRITICAL OF U.S. AND AN INAPPROPRIATE SPEECH FOR A CHIEF OF STATE.

4. IF DEPARTMENT IS PREPARED TO REINSTATE PARTIAL IV GRANT FOR PRADO, WE WOULD RECOMMEND THAT ATTEMPT BE MADE TO ARRANGE APPOINTMENTS FOR PRADO TO CALL ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS, AMBASSADOR VANCE AND LUIGI EINAUDI AS WELL AS OTHER DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS. WE THINK IT WOULD ALSO BE USEFUL IF PRADO COULD MEET WITH STEVE LOW OF NSC STAFF.

5. FINALLY, PRADO IS INTERESTED IN MAKING CONTACTS WITH GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY ALONG SAME LINES HE MADE IN OCTOBER WITH COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY'S SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS. PRADO INFORMS US THAT HIS VISIT TO THE SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS WAS VERY FRUITFUL. HE HAS BEEN INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN A SEMINAR THERE EARLY NEXT YEAR AND HE HAS ALSO INVITED A FACULTY MEMBER TO VISIT HIS SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL SCIENCES IN QUITO AT A TIME YET TO BE DETERMINED.

6. WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S REPLY BEFORE PRADO'S PLANNED DEPARTURE ON NOVEMBER 23 OR 24. FROM NOVEMBER 24 TO 28 HE CAN BE REACHED AT AIRLIE HOUSE. THEAFTER HIS POINT OF CONTACT IN WASHINGTON WILL BE DR. HERNAN VEINTIMILLA OF THE ECUADOREAN EMBASSY. IN THE MEANWHILE, IF DEPARTMENT APPROVES PARTIAL GRANT, RECOMMEND HOTEL RESERVATIONS IN WASHINGTON BE MADE FOR PRADO FOR NOVEMBER 28 TO DECEMBER 2 AND THAT EMBASSY BE ADVISED HOTEL NAME AND ANY OTHER PERTINENT DETAILS.
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